

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph 39 as follows.

[0039] Fig. 8 is a partial cross-sectional view of plate 100. In this exemplary embodiment, the interconnecting members 5 pass through the plate 100 and the plate 100 is secured between two fasteners 15. In accordance with this exemplary embodiment, the fasteners 15 are keys however it should be appreciated that any type of fastener can be used in conjunction with the barrier systems and plates discussed herein. Furthermore, while the exemplary embodiment illustrated in Fig. 8 shows the interconnecting members 5 being removable from and slideable through the plate 100, it should be appreciated that the interconnecting members 5 could also be securely fastened to the plate 100 for example, by welding, or the like. In addition, it should be appreciated that the interconnecting members 5 could extend beyond an end plate and be adapted to ~~be interconnected~~ be interconnected with an adjoining barrier. For example, the interconnecting members could have a male-female relationship where adjoining interconnecting members of the barriers would slide together thereby providing a substantially uniform interconnecting member between the plurality of barriers. In addition, it should be appreciated that the spacing between the plates 100 can be varied for example, by placing a plurality of holes 17 in the interconnecting member 5 as illustrated in Figure 10. This could provide, for example, additional rigidity by allowing an increased number of plates in the barrier 1 which may be appropriate for a particular application.